



COMMISSION ON INSURANCE

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

Scott J. Svonkin
Chairperson

Daniel Falcon
Vice-Chairperson

Barry R. Binder
Michael G. Cheung
Stephen Fluharty
Rickey Ivie
Don Lee
Curren D. Price, Jr.
Rose Reets
Patricia Torres

MINUTES

Meeting of June 28, 2001
830 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration

Commissioners Present: Barry Binder, Michael Cheung, Rickey Ivie, Don Lee, Curren D. Price, Jr., Rose Reets, and Scott Svonkin

Commissioners Absent: Daniel Falcon, Stephen Fluharty and Patricia Torres

Chairperson Svonkin noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m.

CHAIRPERSON REPORT

Chairperson Svonkin welcomed Commissioners and informed them of the challenges the Commission faced in meeting the quorum requirement in the past. He continued by explaining that with the help of the Commission Services' staff and County Counsel, the Commission has the renewed authority to conduct meetings and that the quorum status has been revised to define a quorum as a majority of the appointed members only and will no longer include existing vacancies. The Commission will continue to meet every other month and the next sunset review date has been established as December 31, 2002.

Chairperson Svonkin also recognized newly appointed members Don Lee and Rose Reets and welcomed them to the Commission.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 4, 2001

On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Cheung, the minutes of April 4, 2001 were unanimously carried.

RATIFICATION OF COMMISSION OFFICERS

On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Lee, the ratification of the election held on April 4, 2001 which appointed Scott Svonkin as Chairperson and Daniel Falcon as Vice-Chairperson was unanimously approved. The Treasurer's position has been suspended indefinitely.

DISCUSSION OF LEGISLATION SUPPORTED BY THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The Commission reviewed the following Board of Supervisors supported legislative bills:

- a. AB 32 (RICHMAN) regarding Health Care Coverage
On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to submit letters to the Assemblyman Richman and other legislative members stating the Commission's support for the aforementioned bill.
- b. AB 59 (CEDILLO) regarding Health Programs: Eligibility
On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Lee, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to submit letters to the Assemblyman Cedillo and other legislative members stating the Commission's support for the aforementioned bill.
- c. AB 130 (CARDENAS) regarding Public Social Services: the Family Planning Access Care and Treatment Programs
On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Lee, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to submit letters to the Assemblyman Cardenas and other legislative members stating the Commission's support for the aforementioned bill.
- d. AB 686 (HERTZBERG) regarding Emergency Medical Services: Trauma Centers: Funding
On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Lee, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to submit letters to the Assemblyman Hertzberg and other legislative members stating the Commission's support for the aforementioned bill.

DISCUSSION OF OTHER LEGISLATION

The Commission reviewed the following legislative bills:

- a. SB 35 (ESCUZIA) regarding Tobacco Settlement Fund Allocations
On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Reets, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.
- b. SB 37 (SPEIER) regarding Health Insurance: Coverage for Clinical Trials
On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.
- c. SB 98 (KUEHL) regarding Medicaid: Services for Persons with Dual Diagnoses
On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Reets, the

Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

d. SB 254 (DUNN) regarding Emergency Medical Services

On motion of Commissioner Price, seconded by Commissioner Lee, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

e. SB 328 (SALINAS) regarding Human Services

On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Binder, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

f. AB 334 (STEINBERG) regarding Mental Health Funding: Local Grants

On motion of Commissioner Binder, seconded by Commissioner Reets, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

g. AB 687 (THOMSON) regarding Emergency Medical Services: Trauma Care Systems

On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

h. AB 1043 (RICHTMAN) regarding Medi-Cal: Non-institutional Provider Reimbursement Rates

On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Binder, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

i. AB 1147 (THOMSON) regarding Health Care Coverage

On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Binder, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

j. AB 1422 (THOMSON) regarding Mental Health Training and Advocacy

On motion of Commissioner Lee, seconded by Commissioner Price, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Chairperson Svonkin to send a letter of support for the aforementioned bill to the Board of Supervisors and to subsequently send

letters of support to the authors of the bill and other legislative members pending Board of Supervisors approval.

DISCUSSION ON HOLDING A PUBLIC HEARING ON EARTHQUAKE INSURANCE PROBLEMS AND NOTIFYING THE PUBLIC OF THE DEADLINE TO SUBMIT CLAIMS FOR THE NORTHRIDGE EARTHQUAKE

Chairperson Svonkin reported that the deadline to submit claims was extended to December 31, 2001. It is the Chairperson's understanding that the Department of Insurance uncovered approximately a dozen unsettled claims. As a result of his findings, he suggested that the Commission, with the Board of Supervisors support, notify residences in the affected areas of their opportunity to submit claims before the deadline via mail or press. Commissioner Reets commented that it is the responsibility of the Commission to keep the public informed. Holding a public hearing will give the public an opportunity to voice their concerns and it will give the Commission the opportunity to make information available to the public. The overall consensus of the Commission is to plan to hold a public hearing in September or October of this year in the Northridge area. In addition to inviting the public, the Commission plans to invite insurance companies, the California Department of Insurance, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, Los Angeles County Chief Administrative Office, the California Fair Plan, State Legislators, Federal Emergency Management Agency and consumer interest groups in the area to speak.

MATTERS NOT ON POSTED AGENDA (To be placed on the agenda for discussion at a future meeting)

Chairperson Svonkin spoke to Dr. Brown, UCLA, just published a report on the uninsured in California. Dr. Brown was asked to provide the Commission a break down of uninsured problems in the County of Los Angeles and speak at our next regular meeting. The following legislative bills, AB 937 (KORETZ and CEDILLO) and AB 1118 (CORBETT) were distributed for review at the next meeting.

Commissioner Ivie commented that some Commissions receive a stipend. He asked staff to research the possibility of Commissioners for this body receiving a stipend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

ATTENDANCE

Staff

Martha Littlefield, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
Nyla Barnes, Executive Office, Board of Supervisors